

Prohibition of Discrimination

Your application will be considered without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write:

USDA, Director  
Office of Civil Rights  
Room 326-W, Whitten Building  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20250-9410  
or call  
(202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



You may qualify in as few as seven days to buy food for your family's good health



What is the Food Stamp Program?

The Food Stamp Program helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health. Eligible families receive a card which can be used instead of cash to purchase food items.

The amount of Food Stamps you get each month is based on your monthly income. The first month is pro-rated, so the longer you wait to apply, the lower the amount for the first month will be. File your application right away.

You can apply for Food Stamps with just your name, address and signature on the Application for Assistance. You will need to provide the remaining information on the application before we can determine if you are eligible.

You can use the same Application for Assistance to apply for other benefits like medical coverage, cash assistance, child care, etc.

If You Need Food Stamps Right Away

If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, you may qualify for faster processing of your Food Stamp application:

- Is your income this month less than \$150?
- Are your assets (cash, checking, savings) less than \$100?
- Is your monthly income plus your assets less than your housing and utility costs?
- Is someone in your household a migrant or seasonal farmworker?

If any of these apply to you, you may qualify to get Food Stamps within seven days from the date you apply.

Please contact us

If you would like more information about Health and Welfare benefits, contact the regional office nearest you:

Region 1 (Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai, Shoshone Counties)  
1120 Ironwood Drive  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814-2607  
208-769-1456

Region 2 (Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis, Nez Perce Counties)  
1118 "F" Street, P.O. Drawer B  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
208-799-4400

Region 3 (Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Washington Counties)  
3402 Franklin Road  
Caldwell, ID 83605-6932  
208-454-0421

Region 4 (Ada, Boise, Elmore, Valley Counties)  
1720 Westgate Drive, Suite A  
Boise, ID 83704  
208-334-6700

Region 5 (Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, Twin Falls Counties)  
601 Pole Line Road, Suite 3  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
208-736-3020

Region 6 (Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, Power Counties)  
1090 Hilina Road  
P.O. Box 4166  
Pocatello, ID 83205-4166  
208-235-2900

Region 7 (Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Teton Counties)  
150 Shoup, Suite 19  
Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
208-528-5790

Or visit our web site: [www2.state.id.us/dhw](http://www2.state.id.us/dhw)

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Applying for Food Stamps?

You may qualify in as few as seven days to buy food for your family's good health

**If you applying for Food Stamps,  
you have the right to:**

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- Get an application on the date requested.
- Be treated with courtesy and respect.
- Have your questions answered completely.
- Know the date and time of your interview.
- Know what proof we need to determine your eligibility.
- Authorize a representative if you cannot get to the Food Stamp office. The authorized representative must know your situation.
- Have your interview in a location agreeable to both you and the Department.
- Ask for a home visit or a telephone interview if an interview in the office would cause you a hardship.

**If applying for Food Stamps, you must:**

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- Attend your scheduled interview. If you miss your scheduled interview, you are responsible to reschedule the interview.
- Report your income, resources and family members correctly.
- Provide the information we need to determine your benefits.
- Provide a Social Security Number for any person who wants Food Stamps.

**How we use information you give us**

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The information you provide will be checked to determine if it is true. We may use computer matching programs to check information. This information will be used to make sure that your Food Stamp benefits are correct.

**After applying, you have the right to:**

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- Get Food Stamps within seven days if eligible for high priority Food Stamps.
- Otherwise, have your application processed and Food Stamps issued within 30 days.
- Receive a letter saying if you are eligible or not eligible.
- Receive written notice before any benefits are reduced or stopped.
- Receive an explanation of why any benefits are being reduced or stopped.
- Look at your case file and/or look at a copy of the Food Stamp Program rules.

**After applying, you must also:**

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- Cooperate with state or federal reviewers who are making sure your benefits are correct. Your benefits can be ended if you do not cooperate.
- Look for work or take part in work programs, if required, to help you and your family become self-reliant.
- Work with Child Support Services to help your child get cash and/or medical support from a parent not in the home, unless you have a good reason not to.

If approved, you will receive information about how to use your Quest card to get Food Stamp benefits. If you want to know what may be purchased, ask for the pamphlet: ***The Food Stamp Program***.

If you get Food Stamps and do not use them for 270 days, we will cancel any benefits still in your account.

Two-year cash assistance time limits do not apply to the Food Stamp Program.

**If you do not agree with the decision,  
you have the right to:**

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- Ask for a meeting.
- Request a hearing. You must make your request within 90 days of the date on the written notice sent to you.
- Be represented by yourself, an attorney, relative, or friend at your hearing.

**When receiving Food Stamps,  
you have 10 days to report changes in:**

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- Household size (if people move in or out).
- Address and housing costs (if you move).
- Job\*, work hours, or rate of pay.
- Unearned income (by \$25 or more).
- Amount of court-ordered child support you pay.
- Assets, including vehicles.
- Subsidized rent.

\* If hours worked per week increase from part-time (less than 30) to full-time (more than 30) or decrease from full-time to part-time.

**What are the penalties for misusing  
Food Stamp benefits?**

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- The first conviction for trading Food Stamps for a controlled substance will make you ineligible for 24 months.
- The second conviction for trading Food Stamps for a controlled substance will make you ineligible forever.
- The first conviction for trading Food Stamps for firearms, ammunition, or explosives will make you ineligible forever.
- The first conviction for selling more than \$500 in Food Stamps will make you ineligible forever.

When you or a member of your household sign the application, you certify, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained in the application, including information about citizenship and alien status of the members applying for benefits, is true.

- We are allowed to collect information so that we can determine eligibility for Food Stamps. This includes getting Social Security numbers for anyone who is applying for Food Stamps.
- If information is not true, Food Stamps may be denied. You may be subject to criminal, civil or administrative action (including repayment of benefits) for knowingly providing incorrect information. You may be disqualified from Food Stamps for 12 months if this is your first time and 24 months if it is your second time. On your third time, you will be permanently disqualified from Food Stamps.
- We check the citizenship or alien status of all Food Stamps applicants with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The response from INS may affect their eligibility or the amount of benefits.
- We may give information to Federal and State agencies. We may give information to law enforcement officials to help them arrest persons fleeing to avoid the law.
- If you must pay back Food Stamp benefits, we may give information on this application to Federal and State agencies, or private collection agencies, so they can collect the debt. This may include Social Security numbers of all household members.